Evaluation of MTNL, HPCL and BPCL

1489. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of disinvest MTNL, HPCL and BPCL;

(b) whether Government have made evaluations of these public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the other public sector undertakings likely to be disinvested, particularly PSUs in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) is a continuous process. As a part of the process, Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment in various Public Sector Undertakings from time to time. The proposals are considered through Inter-Ministerial consultation and final decisions are taken. No decision has been taken in respect of disinvestment of MTNL. In the case of BPCL and HPCL, Government has decided 'in principle' to disinvest in BPCL and HPCL.

(b) and (c) At the time of disinvestment, valuation of the concerned PSU is done through various methodologies so as to arrive at a reserve price.

(d) At present, action is being taken on disinvestment by the Ministry of Disinvestment in 30 Public Sector Undertakings/ subsidiaries of Public Sector Undertakings. IPCL, a PSU in the State of Gujarat, is one such PSU in which Government is presently undertaking the disinvestment exercise.

Divesting of SCI

1490. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of a downswing in the shipping

industry, Government plan to rake in Rs. 800 crore by divesting 51 per cent stake in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI); and

(b) if so, Government action plans and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government have decided to disinvest 51% Government equity out of 80.12% in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. It is pre-mature to give any estimates of realisation from the sale of this equity.

The Expressions of Interest from the interested parties have been received. The Advisors and the Legal Advisors for the transaction have been appointed. The transaction is likely to be completed during the financial year 2002-2003.

Pay scale of pharmacists in Government hospitals / CGHS dispensaries

1491. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmacists employed in Government hospitals/CGHS dispensaries enjoy pay scale which is comparatively less than Pharmacists employed in engineering services/subordinate engineering services;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that Pharmacists who are Diploma Holders have for past few years been demanding a pay scale commensurate with their qualifications and comparable with their counterparts in other services;

(d) the action Government have taken on the demands of the Pharmacists; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per recommendation of the 5th Pay Commission, Pharmacists